

*Book of Postical Apothegms.* By ANDREW PARK. London: Bogue. 1852.

As Mr. Park originally contributed to our "Miscellanea" two or three of the apothegms which have grown into this little book, we owe it him to say, that it consists of 236 *quaternaries*, on all sorts of subjects, each complete in itself. Though the philosophy of many of these is erroneous, they form useful texts for thought, and are pervaded by a hearty, honest feeling.

Here are a couple of them:—

"ANDER is partial madness, and the fit  
Though but of short duration, yet may sit  
Like a coiled serpent on the frenzied brain,  
And urge to deeds we can't undo again."

"If all the epitaphs of fond regard  
Are true, engraved in every lone churchyard,  
How bad the living are—how good who die!  
Alas! too many rest beneath a lie."

*The Cloud with the Silver Lining.* By the Author of "A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam." Wright, Pall-mall. 1852.

As we have thus been led into a little light reading, we will take the opportunity to mention a new story by the amiable author of many pleasant tales. All Miss Planché's stories are distinguished by high intention and kindly feeling, and "The Cloud with the Silver Lining" is not an exception. It may be read alike by the young and the old with pleasure and advantage. One of its wholesome inculcations may be given in a sentence:—"There may not be a Sidemoor near us" (the heroine and her husband are setting to work to reform a dissolute village of that name), "but there is work for us to do fitted to our powers, if we would but seek for it: it may be very humble, very slight to what others may be called on to do, but if we do it diligently our pay will be the same as theirs." The chief "moral" of the story is told by the title: and there are times when all may be cheered by remembering that the darkest cloud may have a silver lining. The writer of these little books is doing her own good work quietly and unostentatiously, and will, we hope, reap the reward she richly merits.

*A Series of Designs for Gothic Monuments, Churchyard Crosses, Slabs, &c.* By JOHN GIBBS, Architect and Sculptor. London: Bell, 1852.

TWELVE plates in lithography set forth a number of designs adapted from ancient examples of coped stones, crosses, and monuments, and more accordant with our mediæval churches than those which their walls for the most part exhibit. The majority of the monuments given are arranged to stand in recesses. The volume can scarcely, however, serve for more than a pattern-book for Mr. Gibbs's own employers: if intended for "those whose business or profession it may be," as he expresses it, "to perform the work of a monument," details at large are needed to make it useful.

### Miscellanea.

**THE SHANTÉSBURY LITERARY INSTITUTE.**—The *Dorset Chronicle* reports the first meeting of this new institution, which was held on Wednesday in last week, the Marquis of Westminster, president, in the chair, when the Rev. H. F. Yeatman, L.L.B. delivered to a crowded audience an interesting and able inaugural address on the progress of knowledge, from which we may quote the following passage on the architectural and other knowledge of the Egyptians:—"To give you some idea of what their powers of architecture were I would direct your attention for a moment to that wonderful city called Thebes, the capital of Thebais, or Upper Egypt, built by Osiris (who is said to be an Egyptian king, and the same as Menes, or Minus, the first Egyptian king, and son of Ham), 2,020 years B.C. Osiris was worshipped as a god. Its extent was 420 stadia, or 5½ miles. Homer speaks of its having 100 gates, but it is doubtful whether these 100 gates mean the gates of the city or of its various temples. It was built on the east side of the Nile. Its great temple

(according to Diodorus Siculus) was 1½ mile in circumference—45 cubits high, and its walls were 24 feet thick. That is a remarkable circumstance, tending to show the magnificence and grandeur of these temples. Besides this, there was the palace of Memnon, with its columns 40 feet high, and the walls covered with hieroglyphics. The sepulchres of the ancient kings were there to be seen; and these sepulchres contained paintings of the mysteries which the priests endeavoured to conceal. And it is remarkable that, in 1820, these pictures were considered to be perfect, and not much impaired by time. There was a temple at Jharnae, or Carnac, built by Sesostria, 1,500 years B.C. that is, 3,523 years ago. In the portico of one of these temples there were 100 columns, the smallest of which were 7½ feet, and the largest 12 feet in diameter—that is, 36 feet in circumference. If the portico alone contained 100 columns, such as these, I can only leave you to imagine what must have been the magnitude of that temple itself."

**GREAT QUARRY BLAST IN ARGVLSHIRE.**—At the Furness (or Furnace) Granite Quarry, on Lochfyn, near Inverary, a blast of three tons of gunpowder was successfully fired without the slightest accident on 29th ult. This quarry supplies granite causeway stones such as those with which the main thoroughfares of Glasgow are paved. The material is of the most hard and obdurate description. Several contractors for the blast tunnel gave up the job in despair; but a Welshman named John Rodger at length accomplished it. The work commenced in January last, and was only finished shortly before the blast took place. The quarry rises perpendicularly above the margin of Lochfyn to a height of about 60 feet, and presents a surface to the sea of 100 feet in length. Near the centre of this face, and 70 feet inward or back from the front, a vertical shaft was driven down through the granite mountain to a depth of 60 feet from the surface. It was 3 feet 6 inches square. From the bottom of this shaft two galleries or tunnels, of equal capacity with the main shaft, run each 17 feet in length, in a line, or parallel, with the quarry face. At the extremity of each of these little tunnels was placed a box containing a ton and a half of the strongest blasting power, or giving, in separate divisions, a total charge of three tons. The stemming or filling up of the galleries and shaft was effected by the formation of three inverted arches in each of the galleries, strongly built in with material properly dressed and closely cemented. Independently of these arches in the galleries, the space between, as well as the vertical shaft itself, was firmly packed with solid granite. The blast is said to have been of the most successful character. It is computed that 40,000 tons of granite have been torn up, varying in size from five tons downwards. Where the quarry formerly presented an even surface, there is now a gap 40 feet in width by 35 feet backwards, and the rent, it is believed, extends almost to the bottom of the quarry. The blast was fired by the galvanic spark from a battery only 60 feet from the mouth of the shaft.

**PROGRESS OF LIVERPOOL.**—The dues on tonnage received during the past year have been 137,754*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*: on foreign goods inwards, 86,402*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*; and outwards, 22,530*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* making a total amount of 246,686*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* The interest on bonds amounts to 202,374*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* leaving a margin for ordinary expenditure of 44,311*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* The balance in the hands of the bankers and treasurer has increased from 103,148*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* to 135,096*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* The Albert Dock warehouses have produced for rates and rent 60,201*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* the working expenditure being 36,258*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* A table embodied with the accounts exhibits a remarkable history of progress. In 1752 the amount received for tonnage dues in Liverpool was 1,776*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; and in the closing year of the century, 1799, it was 14,049*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* or nearly eight-fold. In the following year it leaped at once to 23,379*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*; and in 1810 it had reached 65,721*l.* 1*s.* From this point it declined during the next three years, when it began again to increase, and has steadily progressed until

we have in the past year an amount of 246,686*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* although, in 1846, a reduction was made in the rates of 38½ per cent. and, in 1844, a reduction in the tonnage dues on East-India vessels of 33 per cent. or about 18 per cent. on the aggregate of foreign voyages; and again, in 1848, a further reduction, amounting to 40,000*l.* In 1800 the number of vessels frequenting the port was 4,746, and the tonnage 450,060 tons. In 1852 the number of vessels had reached 21,473, with a tonnage of 3,912,506 tons, or above eight-fold the tonnage of 1800.

**THE GENTLEMAN'S ROOM.**—"Far beyond drawing-room or spare-room, and important above almost every other arrangement in your domestic establishment, is the consecration of one room to the especial use of the master of the house, should his pursuits be such as to render occasional solitude and quiet needful or merely pleasurable to him. A sound and a lovely policy is that which secures to a husband, in his own family, certain privileges and comforts that he can never find elsewhere, and that are calculated to counterbalance the weight of the many other attractions which his immediate circle cannot offer. A room to himself—a home within his home—is such a privilege, and few sacrifices are too great, if they may procure it for him: few advantages are great enough, if they must take it from him: it will keep him from clubs and card parties abroad, or from being 'always about' at home: it will prove a sanctuary from the numerous petty domestic troubles and annoyances that, as few men can comprehend or tolerate, it is much better that they should not see; or, should business or amusement induce a temporary absence, the image of his own room, and the gentle loving being presiding over its many indulgences and comforts, will follow him into 'hall and bower,' and, creating a salutary yearning in the midst of greater luxury and wealth, will guide him safely back again, where only he can rest in perfect happiness and safety."—*Home Truths for Home Peace.*

**ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES.**—FURTHER DISCOVERIES.—Letters received in Paris from M. Place, consul at Mosul, report further excavations and successes among the mounds of Nineveh. Besides a large addition of statues, bas-reliefs in marble, pottery, and articles of jewellery, the French explorers have been able to examine the whole of the palace of Khorsabad and its dependencies. They are said to have obtained proof that the Assyrians were not ignorant of any of the resources of architecture. M. Place has discovered a large gate, 12 feet high, which appears to have been one of the entrances to the city; several constructions in marble; two rows of columns, apparently extending a considerable distance; and the cellar of the palace, still containing regular rows of wine jars. M. Place has caused excavations to be made in the hills of Bacheica, Karemless, Teu Leuben, Mattai, Karakock, Digan, &c. on the left bank of the Tigris, within ten leagues from Khorsabad. In them he has found monuments, tombs, jewellery, and some articles of gold and other metal, and in stone. At Dzisiran there is a monument which, it is supposed, may turn out to be as large as that of Khorsabad. At Mattai, and at a place called Barrain, M. Place has found bas-reliefs cut in solid rocks: they consist of a number of colossal figures and of a series of full-length portraits of the kings of Assyria. M. Place reports that he has taken copies of his discoveries by means of the photographic process.

**NEW APPLICATION OF WATER POWER.**—Mr. T. Ainsworth, of Preston, is about to erect in Ribchester a mill for the manufacture of bobbins. The mill, according to the *Preston Chronicle*, will be worked by water power by means of a turbine, instead of a water-wheel. In this instance there is a fall of 60 feet. The water will be conveyed down a tube, 90 feet in length, at a considerable angle, and the continual flow and pressure of this column as it flows down the tube upon the turbine, makes it revolve. Thus the shaft is driven to work the mill.